
FEEBLE-MINDED IN INSTITUTIONS

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FEEBLE-MINDED IN INSTITUTIONS.

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SCOPE OF INQUIRY.

Decennial enumerations of the feeble-minded in the United States have been made since 1850. In each census, from 1850 to 1890, inclusive, it was attempted to obtain returns for all the feeble-minded in the population. The enumerations were rather incomplete until 1880. In that year the work of the regular enumerators was supplemented by that of physicians, who reported more than 29 per cent of the 76,895 persons found to be "idiots." In 1880 the number of this class per 100,000 of population was 153.3. In 1890 the total number of feeble-minded enumerated was 95,609 and the corresponding ratio 152.7 per 100,000 of population. Physicians did not make any special reports of the feeble-minded at the census of 1890, which probably accounts for the ratio being slightly less in that year than in 1880.

The primary object of all previous enumerations of the feeble-minded has been to ascertain their numbers in the United States. In the present inquiry this object had to be abandoned, for the act of Congress of March 6, 1902, governing the work of the Bureau of the Census, expressly provided that enumerations of the so-called "special classes," which include the feeble-minded, must be restricted to inmates of institutions. In the case of the insane, and to a considerable extent in the case of paupers, this restriction does not wholly prevent an approximate quantitative measurement of the extent to which insanity and pauperism prevail in the country because a large proportion of each class is found in institutions. But of the feeble-minded relatively few are cared for in institutions of any kind. Of the 95,609 reported as feeble-minded at the census of 1890, only 5,254 were found in special institutions, and but 2,469 in asylums for the insane. The number of feeble-minded in almshouses was not ascertained.

Recent estimates made by competent authorities place the number of feeble-minded in the United States—that is, of persons so pronouncedly feeble-minded as to stand in need of institutional treatment—at not less than 150,000. Yet, on December

31, 1903, the entire population of special public and private institutions for the feeble-minded numbered only 14,347. There were, in addition, 16,551 supposedly feeble-minded persons among the inmates of almshouses.

It is obvious that the results of an enumeration restricted to the few feeble-minded in institutions can not be brought into comparison with the results of previous censuses, at which the object was to include all persons of this class whether encountered in or outside of institutions. One might, indeed, fairly question the utility of an enumeration of the relatively small number of feeble-minded who are inmates of institutions, since it can throw no light on the real numerical strength of this class, and therefore does not accomplish the chief object of such a census. Even facts in regard to the color, sex, age, nationality, race, geographic distribution, etc., of the relatively few feeble-minded who have been brought together in institutions, lose much of their significance so long as no inferences can be drawn from these facts in regard to the great mass of the feeble-minded who are not receiving institutional treatment.

Further, it is not feasible to enter upon a more intimate statistical study of a small group of this class at the present time. In fact, what belongs to the etiology of feeble-mindedness should be elucidated by medical experts rather than by statisticians, and so long as alienists make but little progress in diagnosing the origin of feeble-mindedness in the individuals under their personal observation, and accept with much reservation general statements in regard to the family history which would seem to bear some relation to the condition of their patients, it is extremely dangerous for statisticians to enter upon this field. Therefore the present investigation does not deal with the causes and kinds of feeble-mindedness, the family relations of the defective, nor any other aspect of the etiology of the individual case.

The inquiry purports merely to give in outline a statistical picture of the movement of population in special public and private institutions or schools for

the feeble-minded during twelve months, together with the general facts in regard to the color, sex, age, and nationality of the inmates. The feeble-minded in almshouses have not been included. Doubtless many persons in almshouses who are classified as feeble-minded are merely senile, and until the facts can be established more clearly it would only result in confusion to incorporate a group concerning which so little accurate knowledge is at hand. Moreover, the feeble-minded in almshouses have been accounted for in the Census Report on Paupers for 1904, and to include them here would not have aided materially in attaining what should be the primary object of an enumeration of the feeble-minded, namely, to determine the number and distribution of all the feeble-minded in the country. The importance of accomplishing this one object can not easily be overestimated. The existing provisions made for the institutional care of the feeble-minded are, on the whole, much less adequate than those for the other defective classes, and in many sections of the country they are wholly lacking. Little improvement, however, can be looked for so long as it is not even known how many stand in need of such care. State bureaus may supply the necessary facts in some instances, but for the most part they can be furnished only through the medium of the Bureau of the Census.

In addition to what positive value this report may possess, it has the negative value of calling attention to the need of an enumeration which shall comprehend the feeble-minded outside of institutions, thousands of whom urgently require institutional care.

GROWTH OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED, 1890 TO 1903.

The enumeration of 1890 covered the feeble-minded in 20 public and 4 private institutions especially

designed for this class. The present report deals with the inmates of 28 public and 14 private institutions. Thus in thirteen years there has been an addition of 8 public and 10 private institutions. Since 1890 the following states have established special public institutions for the feeble-minded: Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin. The public institutions are located in 23 states, of which only 3 (New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania) have more than 1. Colorado and Virginia have each 1 small private institution and no public. The following states are as yet without either public or private institutions for the feeble-minded: Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, Delaware, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Indian Territory, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon. In only one main geographic division—the North Central—is there a public institution for the feeble-minded in each state.

MOVEMENT OF POPULATION OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED DURING 1904.

Table 1 (page 217) shows for the feeble-minded in institutions, classified by color and sex, the number enumerated on December 31, 1903, the number admitted and the number discharged, dying, or transferred during 1904, and the number present on January 1, 1905, for states. Table 2 (page 218) gives the same information for the population of each institution for the feeble-minded, without distinction of sex. Table 1 summarizes the movement of population of institutions for the feeble-minded, classified by color and sex, for states, and shows the increase or decrease in numbers in twelve months.

TABLE I.—MOVEMENT DURING 1904 OF POPULATION OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED, CLASSIFIED BY COLOR AND SEX, FOR STATES.

STATE.	FEEBLE-MINDED IN INSTITUTIONS: 1904.																	
	White.									Colored.								
	December 31, 1903.			January 1, 1905.			Increase (+) or decrease (-).			December 31, 1903.			January 1, 1905.			Increase (+) or decrease (-).		
	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Continental United States.....	14,160	7,528	6,641	15,318	8,157	7,161	+1,149	+629	+520	178	96	82	193	98	95	+15	+2	+13
North Atlantic division.....	5,609	2,918	2,691	5,891	3,087	2,804	+282	+169	+113	90	50	40	89	45	44	-1	-5	+4
New Hampshire.....	64	31	33	67	34	33	+3	+3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Massachusetts.....	861	526	335	907	547	360	+46	+21	+25	17	11	6	17	8	9	.....	+3	+3
Connecticut.....	215	130	85	231	139	92	+16	+9	+7	4	2	2	4	2	2	.....	.....	.....
New York.....	2,112	938	1,174	2,212	1,010	1,202	+100	+72	+28	23	7	16	27	9	18	+4	+2	+2
New Jersey.....	453	199	254	485	208	277	+32	+9	+23	7	4	3	5	3	2	-2	-1	-1
Pennsylvania.....	1,004	1,004	810	1,089	1,149	940	+85	+55	+30	39	26	13	36	23	13	-3	-3	.....
South Atlantic division.....	338	190	130	365	211	154	+27	+12	+15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Maryland.....	162	95	67	168	97	71	+6	+2	+4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Virginia.....	35	16	19	40	18	22	+5	+2	+3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
West Virginia.....	141	88	53	157	96	61	+16	+8	+8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
North Central division.....	7,376	3,936	3,440	8,154	4,352	3,802	+778	+416	+362	63	45	38	98	51	47	+15	+6	+9
Ohio.....	1,008	636	402	1,215	662	523	+117	+56	+61	27	18	9	33	20	13	+6	+2	+4
Indiana.....	1,020	500	520	1,007	472	535	-19	-28	+9	10	4	6	10	4	6	.....	.....	.....
Illinois.....	1,273	718	555	1,379	780	599	+106	+62	+44	10	5	5	12	6	6	+2	+1	+1
Michigan.....	503	269	234	594	316	278	+91	+47	+44	13	7	6	17	9	8	+4	+2	+2
Wisconsin.....	611	291	320	674	326	348	+63	+35	+28	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Minnesota.....	886	485	401	993	524	469	+107	+39	+68	2	1	1	2	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Iowa.....	976	523	453	1,038	500	478	+62	+37	+25	5	2	3	7	3	4	+2	+1	+1
Missouri.....	250	114	136	330	176	154	+80	+62	+18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
North Dakota.....	.....	.....	.....	85	50	35	+85	+50	+35	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
South Dakota.....	51	27	24	72	39	33	+21	+12	+9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nebraska.....	335	175	160	361	196	165	+26	+21	+5	2	.....	2	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kansas.....	367	198	169	406	221	185	+33	+23	+10	14	8	6	15	8	7	+1	.....	+1
South Central division.....	189	105	84	215	127	88	+26	+22	+4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kentucky.....	189	105	84	215	127	88	+26	+22	+4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Western division.....	657	370	287	693	380	313	+36	+10	+26	5	1	4	6	2	4	+1	+1	.....
Colorado.....	14	8	6	24	16	8	+10	+8	+2	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	+1	+1	.....
Washington.....	81	43	38	92	48	44	+11	+5	+6	.....	.....	.....	5	1	4	.....	.....	.....
California.....	562	319	243	577	316	261	+15	-3	+18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

1 Not opened until 1904.

The population of all institutions on December 31, 1903, numbered 14,347; the admissions during 1904, 2,599; and the discharges, deaths, and transfers to other institutions, 1,435. For the twelve months, therefore, the number of feeble-minded in institutions increased by 1,164. The only decrease occurred at the Indiana School for Feeble-minded, where the population diminished by 19 in the twelve months. As yet, not a single state can assert that it affords institutional care for all of its feeble-minded youth. Indeed, there is probably not a single one among the older institutions that can by any means receive all for whose commitment application is made; and while this condition prevails, such a marked growth in numbers dur-

ing a year as is shown in Table I is only what should be expected. Furthermore, from the nature of the case, the feeble-minded form a more stable institutional population than any other class of defectives, and this will be true so long as institutions of necessity must restrict themselves to the reception of the least promising cases.

The comparative stability of the population of institutions for the feeble-minded is further illustrated in Table II, which shows for each state containing such an institution the number and percentage of admissions and of discharges, deaths, and transfers among the feeble-minded present in institutions at sometime during 1904.

TABLE II.—Number and per cent of admissions and of discharges, deaths, and transfers among feeble-minded in institutions during 1904, for states.

STATE.	FEEBLE-MINDED IN INSTITUTIONS: 1904.					
	Total number.	Number			Per cent.	
		Enumerated, December 31, 1903.	Admitted during 1904.	Discharged, died, or transferred during 1904.	Admitted during 1904.	Discharged, died, or transferred during 1904.
Continental United States.	16,946	14,347	2,599	1,435	15.3	8.5
North Atlantic division.	6,651	5,099	952	671	14.3	10.1
New Hampshire.	72	64	8	5	(1)	(1)
Massachusetts.	995	878	117	71	11.8	7.1
Connecticut.	262	219	43	27	16.4	10.3
New York.	2,594	2,135	459	355	17.7	13.7
New Jersey.	527	460	67	37	12.7	7.0
Pennsylvania.	2,201	1,943	258	170	11.7	8.0
South Atlantic division.	397	338	59	32	14.9	8.1
Maryland.	178	162	14	8	8.0	4.5
Virginia.	46	35	11	6	(1)	(1)
West Virginia.	175	141	34	18	19.4	10.3
North Central division.	8,859	7,459	1,400	607	15.8	6.9
Ohio.	1,307	1,125	182	59	13.9	4.5
Indiana.	1,118	1,036	82	101	7.3	9.0
Illinois.	1,507	1,283	224	116	14.9	7.7
Michigan.	657	516	141	46	21.5	7.0
Wisconsin.	710	611	99	36	13.9	5.1
Minnesota.	1,071	888	183	76	17.1	7.1
Iowa.	1,152	981	171	107	14.8	9.3
Missouri.	354	250	104	24	29.4	6.8
North Dakota.	86	—	86	1	(1)	(1)
South Dakota.	77	51	26	5	(1)	(1)
Nebraska.	386	337	49	23	12.7	6.0
Kansas.	434	381	53	13	12.2	3.0
South Central division.	244	189	55	29	22.5	11.9
Kentucky.	244	189	55	29	22.5	11.9
Western division.	795	662	133	96	16.7	12.1
Colorado.	33	14	19	8	(1)	(1)
Washington.	124	81	43	32	34.7	25.8
California.	638	567	71	56	11.1	8.8

¹ Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

The total discharges, deaths, and transfers during 1904 numbered 1,435, of which number 574 were removed by death and 212 were transferred to other institutions, so that less than one-half of the total were discharged from institutional care. A considerable variation will be observed in the per cents of discharges, deaths, and transfers shown for the different states. These per cents are, in general, probably less affected by the death rate and the numbers transferred to other institutions than by the policies governing dismissals. The tendency toward a permanent segregation of certain groups of the feeble-minded is much more marked in some states than in others. The percentages of admissions, when compared with those of discharges, deaths, and transfers, probably illustrate the demand for institutional care for the feeble-minded, in addition to showing the increase in population already noted.

ANALYSIS OF DATA, 1904.

Table III shows for the feeble-minded, classified by sex, color, nativity, and race, the number enumer-

ated in institutions on December 31, 1903, and the number admitted during 1904, for main geographic divisions.

Of the 14,347 inmates of institutions for feeble-minded on December 31, 1903, only 412 were in private institutions. The percentages of the above total for the main geographic divisions were as follows: North Atlantic, 39.7; South Atlantic, 2.4; North Central, 52; South Central, 1.3; and Western, 4.6. These figures indicate merely the extent to which provision is made for the care of feeble-minded in special institutions, and bear little relation to the actual number of these defectives in the population of the various sections of the country.

The colored inmates (including 1 Mongolian and 5 Indians) numbered 178, or 1.2 per cent of the aggregate on the given date. The institutions for the feeble-minded in the South Atlantic and South Central states do not receive colored persons. On December 31, 1903, about 2,500 colored feeble-minded were reported as inmates of almshouses, most of whom were accredited to the South Atlantic and South Central states.

Of the 14,169 white inmates, 85.8 per cent were native, 6 per cent foreign born, and 8.2 per cent of unknown nativity. The slight representation of the foreign born is natural. Feeble-mindedness, if not a congenital defect, is one which appears usually in early infancy, and children of immigrants so deficient mentally as to require commitment to institutions would certainly be excluded. Adult feeble-minded are not usually received by the special institutions, which are specifically intended as schools for the care and training of feeble-minded youth.

Among the native white inmates, 52.5 per cent were of native, 18.4 per cent of foreign, 12.9 per cent of mixed, and 16.2 per cent of unknown parentage. Since the inmates of special institutions constitute but a small proportion of the total feeble-minded and, moreover, are in a sense selected cases, it is impossible to make any deductions of value from the classification by nativity.

The admissions to institutions for the feeble-minded during 1904 numbered 2,599, and were distributed by main geographic divisions as follows: North Atlantic, 36.6 per cent; South Atlantic, 2.3 per cent; North Central, 53.9 per cent; South Central, 2.1 per cent; and Western, 5.1 per cent. Of the white persons admitted, 89.7 per cent were native, 7.1 per cent foreign born, and 3.2 per cent of unknown nativity. The per cent distribution by parentage, of the native whites admitted during 1904, corresponds closely to that noted for the native white inmates on December 31, 1903.

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TABLE III.—FEEBLE-MINDED ENUMERATED IN INSTITUTIONS, DECEMBER 31, 1903, AND THOSE ADMITTED TO INSTITUTIONS DURING 1904, CLASSIFIED BY SEX, COLOR, NATIVITY, AND RACE, FOR MAIN GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS.

FEEBLE-MINDED IN INSTITUTIONS: 1904.													
DIVISION AND SEX.	Aggregate.	White.								Colored.			
		Total.	Native.					Foreign born.	Nativity unknown.	Total.	Negro.	Mongolian.	Indian.
			Total.	Native parent-age.	Foreign parent-age.	Mixed parent-age. ¹	Parent-age unknown.						
Enumerated, December 31, 1903.													
Continental United States:													
Both sexes.....	14,347	14,169	12,165	6,378	2,236	1,574	1,967	856	1,158	178	172	1	5
Males.....	7,624	7,528	6,524	3,592	1,238	871	823	440	504	96	95	.....	1
Females.....	6,723	6,641	5,631	2,786	998	703	1,144	416	594	82	77	1	4
North Atlantic division—													
Both sexes.....	5,699	5,609	4,805	2,238	916	641	1,010	369	435	90	80	1	3
Males.....	2,908	2,918	2,558	1,278	510	365	405	171	189	50	50	.....	.....
Females.....	2,791	2,691	2,247	960	406	276	605	198	246	40	30	1	3
South Atlantic division—													
Both sexes.....	338	338	333	284	4	2	43	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Males.....	199	199	196	166	3	2	25	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Females.....	139	139	137	118	1	.....	18	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
North Central division—													
Both sexes.....	7,459	7,376	6,235	3,529	1,161	815	730	441	700	83	82	.....	1
Males.....	3,981	3,936	3,326	1,957	634	438	297	242	368	45	44	.....	1
Females.....	3,478	3,440	2,909	1,572	527	377	433	199	332	38	38	.....	.....
South Central division—													
Both sexes.....	189	189	185	40	.....	2	143	1	3	.....	.....	.....	.....
Males.....	105	105	104	25	.....	2	77	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Females.....	84	84	81	15	.....	.....	66	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....
Western division—													
Both sexes.....	602	657	597	287	155	114	41	40	20	5	4	.....	1
Males.....	371	370	340	166	91	64	19	23	7	1	1	.....	.....
Females.....	291	287	257	121	64	50	22	17	13	4	3	.....	1
Admitted during 1904.													
Continental United States:													
Both sexes.....	2,599	2,564	2,301	1,195	509	301	296	182	81	35	35	.....	.....
Males.....	1,487	1,469	1,330	711	309	167	143	102	37	18	18	.....	.....
Females.....	1,112	1,095	971	484	200	134	153	80	44	17	17	.....	.....
North Atlantic division—													
Both sexes.....	952	939	827	412	206	105	104	70	42	13	13	.....	.....
Males.....	550	554	489	242	126	63	58	44	21	5	5	.....	.....
Females.....	393	385	338	170	80	42	46	26	21	8	8	.....	.....
South Atlantic division—													
Both sexes.....	59	59	58	19	3	1	35	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Males.....	31	31	30	10	3	.....	17	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Females.....	28	28	28	9	.....	1	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
North Central division—													
Both sexes.....	1,400	1,379	1,238	682	275	170	111	104	37	21	21	.....	.....
Males.....	793	781	713	411	167	97	38	54	14	12	12	.....	.....
Females.....	607	598	525	271	108	73	73	50	23	9	9	.....	.....
South Central division—													
Both sexes.....	55	55	55	21	1	.....	33	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Males.....	36	36	36	15	1	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Females.....	19	19	19	6	.....	.....	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Western division—													
Both sexes.....	133	132	123	61	24	25	13	7	2	1	1	.....	.....
Males.....	68	67	62	33	12	7	10	3	2	1	1	.....	.....
Females.....	65	65	61	28	12	18	3	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

¹ Having one parent native and the other foreign, or one parent unknown and the other either native or foreign.

FEEBLE-MINDED IN INSTITUTIONS.

Sex.—Table IV shows the per cent distribution, by sex, of the feeble-minded who were either enumerated in institutions on December 31, 1903, or admitted during 1904, for main geographic divisions.

TABLE IV.—*Per cent distribution, by sex, of feeble-minded in institutions, for main geographic divisions: 1904.*

SEX.	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF FEEBLE-MINDED IN INSTITUTIONS: 1904.					
	Continental United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.
Both sexes.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Males.....	53.8	53.0	57.9	53.9	57.8	55.2
Females.....	46.2	47.0	42.1	46.1	42.2	44.8

The excess of males is pronounced in each of the state groups; and in the institutions of the North Atlantic and the North Central divisions, which contain 15,510 of the 16,946 feeble-minded involved, the percentages of males are very nearly identical. A preponderance of males among the feeble-minded was shown at the census of 1890 and in the report on paupers in almshouses for 1904, so that in this respect the returns from institutions probably reflect accurately the sex distribution in this class of defectives. When the per cent distribution by sex is considered for each race and nativity class, as shown in Table V, the males are found to be in the majority among the colored as well as among the white in each group of known nativity and parentage.

TABLE V.—*Per cent distribution, by sex, of feeble-minded in institutions, classified by color, nativity, and race: 1904.*

COLOR, NATIVITY, AND RACE.	FEEBLE-MINDED IN INSTITUTIONS: 1904.	
	Per cent male.	Per cent female.
Aggregate.....	53.8	46.2
White.....	53.8	46.2
Native.....	54.3	45.7
Native parentage.....	50.8	49.2
Foreign parentage.....	50.4	49.6
Mixed parentage ¹	55.4	44.6
Parentage unknown.....	42.7	57.3
Foreign born.....	52.2	47.8
Nativity unknown.....	48.5	51.5
Colored.....	53.5	46.5
Negro.....	54.0	46.0
Mongolian.....	(²)	(²)
Indian.....	(²)	(²)

¹ Having one parent native and the other foreign, or one parent unknown and the other either native or foreign.

² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

Nativity of white feeble-minded.—The per cent distribution, by nativity, of the white feeble-minded of known nativity enumerated in institutions on December 31, 1903, and of those admitted during 1904, is shown in Table VI, for states.

TABLE VI.—*Per cent distribution, by nativity, of white feeble-minded of known nativity enumerated in institutions, December 31, 1903, and of those admitted to institutions during 1904, for states.*

STATE.	WHITE FEEBLE-MINDED OF KNOWN NATIVITY IN INSTITUTIONS: 1904.			
	Enumerated, December 31, 1903.		Admitted during 1904.	
	Per cent native.	Per cent foreign born.	Per cent native.	Per cent foreign born.
Continental United States.....	93.4	6.6	92.7	7.3
North Atlantic division.....	92.0	7.1	92.2	7.8
New Hampshire.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Massachusetts.....	91.6	8.4	92.8	7.2
Connecticut.....	98.4	1.6	(¹)	(¹)
New York.....	87.9	12.1	88.6	11.4
New Jersey.....	94.8	5.2	(¹)	(¹)
Pennsylvania.....	97.4	2.6	96.3	3.7
South Atlantic division.....	98.5	1.5	(¹)	(¹)
Maryland.....	96.9	3.1	(¹)	(¹)
Virginia.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
West Virginia.....	100.0	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
North Central division.....	93.4	6.6	92.3	7.7
Ohio.....	82.7	17.3	87.3	12.7
Indiana.....	99.2	0.8	(¹)	(¹)
Illinois.....	96.3	3.7	94.7	5.3
Michigan.....	91.9	8.1	96.2	3.8
Wisconsin.....	91.3	8.7	(¹)	(¹)
Minnesota.....	87.4	12.6	89.4	10.6
Iowa.....	96.5	3.5	96.4	3.6
Missouri.....	92.4	7.6	97.1	2.9
North Dakota.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
South Dakota.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Nebraska.....	96.1	3.9	(¹)	(¹)
Kansas.....	99.7	0.3	(¹)	(¹)
South Central division.....	99.5	0.5	(¹)	(¹)
Kentucky.....	99.5	0.5	(¹)	(¹)
Western division.....	93.7	6.3	94.6	5.4
Colorado.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Washington.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
California.....	93.1	6.9	(¹)	(¹)

¹ Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

Among the white feeble-minded of known nativity the number of native feeble-minded was 14,456, or 93.4 per cent, and of foreign born, 1,038, or 6.6 per cent. The largest percentage of foreign born among the white feeble-minded, 17.3, is found in Ohio, which is followed by Minnesota with 12.6 per cent, and New York with 12.1. In other states having exceptionally large foreign populations the percentages of foreign born among the white feeble-minded in institutions are in all cases under 10. It is probable, therefore, that in most instances the number of foreign born white feeble-minded in the population of a state bears little relation to the number that happens to be committed to institutions.

Parentage of native white feeble-minded.—Table VII shows the per cent distribution, by nativity of parents, of the native white feeble-minded of known parentage who were inmates of institutions at sometime during 1904, for main geographic divisions.

TABLE VII.—Per cent distribution, by nativity of parents, of native white feeble-minded of known parentage in institutions, for main geographic divisions: 1904.

NATIVITY OF PARENTS.	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE WHITE FEEBLE-MINDED OF KNOWN PARENTAGE IN INSTITUTIONS: 1904.					
	Conti- nental United States.	North Atlan- tic divi- sion.	South Atlan- tic divi- sion.	North Central divi- sion.	South Central divi- sion.	West- ern divi- sion.
All classes.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(1)	100.0
Native parentage.....	62.1	58.7	96.8	63.5	(1)	52.2
Foreign parentage.....	22.5	24.8	2.2	21.7	(1)	26.9
Mixed parentage ²	15.4	16.5	1.0	14.8	(1)	20.9

¹ Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.² Having one parent native and the other foreign, or one parent unknown and the other either native or foreign.

The apparent prevalence of feeble-mindedness among native white children of foreign parentage has been much commented upon. This view in the Census Report on the Insane, etc., for 1890 (page 75) is confirmed, as follows: "The proportion of feeble-minded under 25 years of age . . . is greater among the (native) white children of foreign born parents than among those of native parents."

The figures from which the per cents in Table VII are derived are of course too small to permit general deductions. But when the reluctance with which foreign parents seek the commitment of their children to institutions is considered, the comparatively large percentages of persons of foreign parentage among the native white feeble-minded point to the greater prevalence of feeble-mindedness among these than among the native whites of native parentage.

Nationality of foreign born white feeble-minded.—According to Table III among the white feeble-minded of known nativity who were either enumerated in institutions on December 31, 1903, or admitted during 1904, a total of 1,038 were foreign born. The per cent distribution of this number, by country of birth, is shown in Table VIII.

In view of the small numbers of the foreign born white feeble-minded it would be unfair to infer that the different nationalities represented contribute feeble-minded to the population in the proportion in which their children are committed to special institutions. The extent to which these institutions are utilized by any foreign element may, self-evidently, be wholly unrelated to its numbers standing in need of institutional care. Nevertheless it is interesting to note the percentage of feeble-minded German born, 26.4, which is very large as compared, for instance, with that for the Irish born, which was only 7. Yet it is known that both in almshouses and in hospitals for the insane the percentage of Irish born is larger than that of any other foreign nationality. The percentages of feeble-minded born in Canada, 14.4, and of those born in Russia and Poland, 12.2, are also unexpectedly large and out of keeping with the repre-

sentation of these nationalities in almshouses and hospitals for the insane. The percentage of Scandinavian feeble-minded likewise seems exceptionally great. For the other nationalities the figures correspond more closely to known facts concerning other groups of dependents and defectives belonging to them.

TABLE VIII.—Per cent distribution, by country of birth, of total and of foreign born white feeble-minded of known nativity in institutions, for main geographic divisions: 1904.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH.	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF WHITE FEEBLE-MINDED OF KNOWN NATIVITY IN INSTITUTIONS: 1904.					
	Conti- nental United States.	North Atlan- tic divi- sion.	South Atlan- tic divi- sion.	North Central divi- sion.	South Central divi- sion.	West- ern divi- sion.
Total.						
All countries.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Continental United States.....	93.3 6.7	92.8 7.2	98.5 1.5	93.2 6.8	99.6 0.4	93.9 6.1
Foreign countries.....						
Foreign born.						
All foreign countries.....	100.0	100.0	(1)	100.0	(1)	(1)
Ireland.....	7.0	10.5	-----	4.6	-----	(1)
Germany.....	26.4	18.9	-----	34.3	-----	(1)
England and Wales.....	9.7	10.0	-----	9.0	-----	(1)
Canada.....	14.4	14.8	(1)	11.9	-----	(1)
Scandinavia.....	11.7	3.2	-----	18.9	-----	(1)
Scotland.....	1.8	2.1	-----	1.4	-----	(1)
Italy.....	3.7	7.5	-----	0.4	-----	(1)
France.....	1.0	1.8	-----	0.4	-----	-----
Hungary and Bohemia.....	3.5	3.9	-----	3.5	-----	-----
Russia and Poland.....	12.2	17.3	(1)	9.0	-----	(1)
Other countries.....	8.6	10.0	(1)	6.6	(1)	(1)

¹ Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.² Includes Newfoundland.

Present age.—Table 7 (page 223) shows the feeble-minded who were inmates of institutions at sometime during 1904, classified by color, nativity, race, sex, and age in quinquennial periods. The feeble-minded admitted to institutions during 1904 are distributed by years of age in Table 8 (page 224).

Of the feeble-minded inmates of institutions at sometime during 1904, 16,655, of whom 8,967 were males and 7,688 females, were of known age under 100 years. The per cent distribution by age is given in Table IX.

In the age groups under 20 years were found 58 per cent of all the feeble-minded of known age, with the highest percentages, 22.9 and 24.4, in the age groups 10 to 14 years and 15 to 19 years, respectively. The age group 20 to 24 years contained 16.7 per cent of all the inmates, and that 25 to 29 years 10.4 per cent, so that in all, 85.1 per cent were found to be under 30 years of age. The numbers in each of the succeeding age groups diminish rapidly. Relatively more females than males were found in the adult age groups, beginning with that 20 to 24 years. Here and there an inmate was found who had reached the age of 55 or more. The comparative youthfulness of the large majority of the feeble-minded in special institutions is

determined not only by the prevailing policies in regard to admissions and discharges, which as a rule restrict the privileges of the institutions to children or young people and provide for the dismissal of all who can safely be sent away, but also, as will be shown later, by the rate of mortality in this class of defectives.

TABLE IX.—*Per cent distribution, by age, of feeble-minded of known age under 100 years in institutions, classified by sex: 1904.*

AGE.	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF FEEBLE-MINDED IN INSTITUTIONS: 1904.		
	Total.	Male.	Female.
All known ages under 100 years.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years.....	0.6	0.6	0.6
5 to 9 years.....	10.1	11.7	8.1
10 to 14 years.....	22.9	25.2	20.3
15 to 19 years.....	24.4	25.7	22.8
20 to 24 years.....	16.7	16.1	17.4
25 to 29 years.....	10.4	9.1	11.9
30 to 34 years.....	6.0	4.8	7.3
35 to 39 years.....	3.9	3.0	4.9
40 to 44 years.....	2.2	1.5	3.0
45 to 49 years.....	1.4	1.0	1.9
50 to 54 years.....	0.8	0.6	0.9
55 to 59 years.....	0.3	0.3	0.4
60 to 64 years.....	0.2	0.3	0.3
65 to 69 years.....	0.1	0.1	0.1
70 to 74 years.....	(¹)	(¹)	0.1
75 to 79 years.....	(¹)	(¹)	.....
80 to 84 years.....	(¹)	(¹)	.....
85 to 89 years.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
90 to 94 years.....	(¹)	(¹)	.....
95 to 99 years.....	(¹)	.....	(¹)

¹ Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

Age at admission.—The age distribution of the 2,599 feeble-minded admitted to institutions during 1904 is shown in Table 8. Since the age at admission is not subject to any marked change from year to year, the age distribution of those admitted during 1904 may be considered as typical. The per cent distribution, by age, of the feeble-minded admitted to institutions during 1904 is given in Table x, for main geographic divisions.

TABLE X.—*Per cent distribution, by age, of feeble-minded admitted to institutions during 1904, for main geographic divisions.*

AGE.	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF FEEBLE-MINDED ADMITTED TO INSTITUTIONS DURING 1904.					
	Continental United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.
All ages.....	100.0	100.0	(¹)	100.0	(¹)	100.0
Under 5 years.....	1.7	3.1	(¹)	0.9	.....	1.5
5 to 9 years.....	21.8	22.0	(¹)	22.0	(¹)	16.5
10 to 14 years.....	33.0	32.5	(¹)	33.3	(¹)	39.1
15 to 19 years.....	20.7	20.5	(¹)	19.9	(¹)	25.5
20 to 24 years.....	8.7	8.7	(¹)	9.0	.....	7.5
25 to 29 years.....	4.2	4.3	(¹)	4.3	(¹)	0.7
30 to 34 years.....	2.8	2.1	(¹)	3.2	(¹)	2.3
35 to 39 years.....	2.6	1.8	(¹)	3.1	.....	2.3
40 to 44 years.....	1.4	0.8	(¹)	1.5	(¹)	2.3
45 to 49 years.....	1.1	1.8	.....	0.9	.....	.....
50 to 54 years.....	0.7	0.9	.....	0.6	.....	.....
55 to 59 years.....	0.2	0.1	.....	0.3	.....	.....
60 to 64 years.....	0.2	0.2	(¹)	0.1	.....	.....
65 to 69 years.....	0.1	0.1	.....	0.1	.....	.....
70 to 74 years.....	(¹)	0.1	.....	.....	.....	.....
75 to 79 years.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
80 to 84 years.....	(¹)	.....	.....	0.1	.....	.....
85 to 89 years.....	(¹)	0.1	.....	.....	.....	.....
90 to 94 years.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
95 to 99 years.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
100 years and over.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Age unknown.....	0.8	0.9	.....	0.7	.....	2.3

¹ Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

² Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

Only 1.7 per cent of the total persons admitted to institutions during 1904 were infants under 5 years of age; but 21.8 per cent of those admitted were from 5 to 9 years of age; 33 per cent, from 10 to 14; and 20.7 per cent, from 15 to 19; so that in all 77.2 per cent of the admissions occurred before the 20th year of life had been reached. The admissions at the ages from 15 to 19 years were more than twice as numerous as in the age group 20 to 24 years, and in the subsequent age periods the numbers admitted diminish rapidly. Yet the admissions between the ages of 20 and 39 years constitute 18.3 per cent of the total number. The occasional commitments of persons above the age of 30 are presumably made for the purpose of safe-keeping rather than with the hope of training and educating the individual. The per cent distribution, by age, of those admitted during 1904 is very nearly the same for the North Atlantic and the North Central states, in which most of the institutions for the feeble-minded are located. The first-mentioned group appears to receive a relatively larger number of infants under 5 years of age, and the second to admit a proportionally larger number of adults between the ages of 20 and 45 years.

Physical defects.—Table 9 (page 226) shows the feeble-minded in institutions at sometime during 1904, classified by color, nativity, race, and sex, who were found to be epileptic, blind, deaf-mute, paralytic, and crippled, maimed, or deformed, for main geographic divisions. The total number involved was 5,124, or 30.2 per cent of all the feeble-minded in institutions. Table xi shows the per cent of the feeble-minded in institutions, classified by sex, color, nativity, and race, who have some one of the specified physical defects.

More than three-tenths, or 30.2 per cent, of the feeble-minded in institutions were defective in other ways. Among this class epilepsy seems to have been the most common additional defect, as nearly three-fifths of them were epileptics. The maimed, crippled, or deformed were slightly more numerous than the paralytics, who constituted nearly one-sixth of those with additional defects. The proportions of deaf-mutes and of blind among this class were small. Of the 16,946 feeble-minded, 3,015, or 17.8 per cent, were epileptic; 125, or 0.7 per cent, blind; 278, or 1.6 per cent, deaf-mutes; 850, or 5 per cent, paralytic; and 856, or 5.1 per cent, crippled, maimed, or deformed. The percentages for each sex are nearly the same as those for the total. So far as sex, color, and nativity are concerned, however, the figures hardly permit any general deductions, as the data concerning the feeble-minded in the general population are wanting. The proportion of the feeble-minded with other defects varies greatly in the different divisions, for which the percentages are as follows: North Atlantic, 25.4 per cent; South Atlantic, 43.3 per cent; North Central, 33 per cent; South Central, 29.5 per cent; and Western, 33.3 per cent. The institutions of the North Atlantic states reported 11.3 per cent of the feeble-

mind as epileptic, while those of the North Central states reported 21.9 per cent. For the blind, deaf-mute, paralytic and maimed, crippled, or deformed

among the feeble-minded the institutions of the two state groups show generally corresponding percentages.

TABLE XI.—PER CENT PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE AMONG FEEBLE-MINDED IN INSTITUTIONS, CLASSIFIED BY SEX: 1904.

COLOR, NATIVITY, AND RACE.	FEEBLE-MINDED IN INSTITUTIONS: 1904.																	
	Total: Per cent—						Male: Per cent—						Female: Per cent—					
	Phys-ically defective.	Epi-lep-tic.	Blind.	Deaf.	Par-alytic.	Crip-pled, maimed, or de-formed.	Phys-ically defective.	Epi-lep-tic.	Blind.	Deaf.	Par-alytic.	Crip-pled, maimed, or de-formed.	Phys-ically defective.	Epi-lep-tic.	Blind.	Deaf.	Par-alytic.	Crip-pled, maimed, or de-formed.
Aggregate.....	30.2	17.8	0.7	1.6	5.0	5.1	29.9	17.6	0.8	1.6	5.2	4.7	30.6	18.0	0.7	1.6	4.8	5.5
White.....	30.3	17.8	0.7	1.7	5.0	5.1	30.0	17.7	0.8	1.6	5.2	4.7	30.6	18.0	0.7	1.7	4.8	5.4
Native.....	31.0	18.5	0.8	1.6	5.1	5.0	30.5	18.3	0.8	1.5	5.2	4.7	31.5	18.9	0.7	1.6	4.9	5.4
Native parentage.....	32.4	19.7	0.8	1.4	5.4	5.1	31.9	19.5	0.7	1.3	5.5	4.9	33.1	20.0	0.7	1.6	5.3	5.5
Foreign parentage.....	31.1	19.2	0.7	1.5	5.3	4.4	29.8	18.1	0.7	1.2	5.3	4.5	32.9	20.5	0.8	2.0	5.4	4.2
Mixed parentage ¹	29.8	18.4	0.5	1.4	5.0	4.5	28.9	17.6	0.6	1.4	5.6	3.7	30.8	19.5	0.3	1.3	4.2	5.5
Parentage unknown.....	27.0	14.0	1.1	2.2	3.8	5.9	27.3	13.9	1.7	2.8	3.6	5.3	26.8	14.1	0.5	1.8	4.0	6.4
Foreign born.....	30.3	16.1	0.4	2.8	5.8	5.2	31.5	16.4	0.3	3.3	6.3	5.2	29.0	15.8	0.6	2.2	5.2	5.2
Nativity unknown.....	22.1	10.9	0.7	1.0	3.8	5.1	21.3	10.5	0.5	2.0	4.0	4.8	22.9	11.3	0.9	1.3	3.6	5.8
Colored.....	27.7	15.5	0.9	1.4	3.8	6.1	26.3	15.8	1.7	0.9	2.6	5.3	(?)	(?)	.....	(?)	(?)	(?)
Negro.....	28.5	15.9	1.0	1.4	3.9	6.3	26.5	15.9	1.8	0.9	2.6	5.3	(?)	(?)	.....	(?)	(?)	(?)
Indian and Mongolian.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

¹ Having one parent native and the other foreign, or one parent unknown and the other either native or foreign.

² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

Discharges from institutions.—Table 10 (page 228) shows that of the total number of feeble-minded inmates of institutions at sometime during 1904, 1,435, or 8.5 per cent, had died, been transferred to other institutions, or discharged during the year. Of these 1,435 patients, 649, or 45.2 per cent, were discharged; 574, or 40 per cent, died; and 212, or 14.8 per cent, were transferred to other institutions. Table 10 also shows for those discharged the custody into which they were given and their condition at the time of dismissal. Table XII shows the per cent distribution of the feeble-minded discharged from institutions during 1904, not only by the custody into which they were given, but also by their condition at the time of dismissal.

TABLE XII.—Per cent distribution, by custody and condition, of feeble-minded discharged from institutions, for main geographic divisions: 1904.

CUSTODY AND CONDITION AT DISCHARGE.	FEEBLE-MINDED DISCHARGED FROM INSTITUTIONS: 1904.					
	Conti-nental United States.	North Atlan-tic di- vision.	South Atlan-tic di- vision.	North Central di- vision.	South Central di- vision.	West-ern di- vision.
Per cent distribution by custody.						
All classes.....	100.0	100.0	(¹)	100.0	(¹)	(¹)
Custody of friends or relatives.....	88.0	86.6	(¹)	88.8	(¹)	(¹)
Custody of self.....	8.8	7.9	(¹)	11.2	(¹)	(¹)
Unknown.....	3.2	5.5	(¹)	.....	(¹)	(¹)
Per cent distribution by condition.						
All classes.....	100.0	100.0	(¹)	100.0	(¹)	(¹)
Improved.....	54.5	79.0	(¹)	25.1	(¹)	(¹)
Unimproved.....	17.9	14.5	(¹)	16.5	(¹)	(¹)
Unknown.....	27.6	6.5	(¹)	58.4	.....	.....

¹ Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

Of the 649 persons discharged, 571, or 88 per cent, were returned to their relatives or friends, and 57, or 8.8 per cent, were reported as not having been discharged into the special custody of other persons. Concerning 21, or 3.2 per cent, the facts were not stated. From the institutions of both the North Atlantic and the North Central states, which are the most numerous and important, the great majority of the feeble-minded discharged were sent back to relatives or friends.

Probably no really feeble-minded person can be said ever to recover fully. It seemed unnecessary, therefore, to make any other distinction concerning the condition when discharged from institutions than as between those who were improved and those who remained unimproved. Of the 649 persons discharged, 354, or 54.5 per cent, were reported as improved, and 116, or 17.9 per cent, as unimproved. The condition of 179, or 27.6 per cent, was not stated. The institutions of the North Atlantic states reported 79 per cent of the discharged to be improved, as compared with 25.1 per cent for the institutions of the North Central states; but the latter made no report in 58.4 per cent of the total number of discharges, as compared with 6.5 per cent in the former. No explanation of this discrepancy between the relative numbers returned as improved from the institutions of these two state groups is at hand.

Deaths in institutions.—Table 11 (page 229) shows the feeble-minded who died in institutions at sometime during 1904, classified by age and sex, for states. The persons who died numbered 574, of whom 325 were males and 249 females. Table XIII shows the per cent distribution, by age, of these feeble-minded, without distinction of sex, for main geographic divisions.

TABLE XIII.—*Per cent distribution, by age, of feeble-minded dying in institutions, for main geographic divisions: 1904.*

AGE.	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF FEEBLE-MINDED DYING IN INSTITUTIONS: 1904.					
	Conti- nental United States	North Atlan- tic di- vision.	South Atlan- tic di- vision.	North Cen- tral di- vision.	South Cen- tral di- vision.	West- ern divi- sion.
All ages.....	100.0	100.0	(1)	100.0	(1)	(1)
Under 5 years.....	1.9	2.9	.....	1.6	.....	.....
5 to 9 years.....	9.6	8.2	(1)	10.4	(1)	(1)
10 to 14 years.....	16.9	15.0	(1)	18.6	(1)	(1)
15 to 19 years.....	22.8	16.4	(1)	26.2	(1)	(1)
20 to 24 years.....	17.8	20.3	(1)	16.7	(1)	(1)
25 to 29 years.....	11.0	10.2	(1)	12.0	.....	(1)
30 to 34 years.....	5.9	6.3	.....	6.3	.....	(1)
35 to 39 years.....	5.2	8.2	(1)	3.5	.....	(1)
40 to 44 years.....	2.9	2.4	(1)	2.5	.....	(1)
45 to 49 years.....	2.8	4.3	(1)	1.0	(1)	(1)
50 to 54 years.....	0.7	1.4	.....	.....	.....	(1)
55 to 59 years.....	0.7	0.5	(1)	0.6	.....	.....
60 to 64 years.....	0.0	1.4	(1)	0.3	.....	.....
65 to 69 years.....	0.2	0.5	.....	.....	.....	.....
70 to 74 years.....	0.2	0.5	.....	.....	.....	.....
75 years and over.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Age unknown.....	0.5	1.0	.....	0.3	.....	.....

¹ Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

Since about 85 per cent of all the feeble-minded in institutions were under 30 years of age, the majority of deaths must obviously be looked for in the age groups under 30 years; and in all, 80 per cent died at ages under 30 years. The age group under 5 years showed about 0.6 per cent of the total and yielded 1.9 per cent of the deaths. In the age groups 5 to 9 years and 10 to 14 years occurred, respectively, 9.6 per cent and 16.9 per cent of the deaths, the maximum percentage, 22.8, being reached in the age group 15 to 19 years. In keeping with the smaller total representation involved the percentages of deaths show a marked decline in the higher age groups, beginning with 20 to 24 years and continuing with but few exceptions throughout the remaining quinquennial periods. The differences between the percentages of deaths in the different age groups in the North Atlantic states and those in the North Central are of course due largely to the different age distributions of the feeble-minded.

Source of support.—Table 12 (page 230) shows the numbers of feeble-minded in institutions at some time during 1904 who were maintained at public expense, at public and private expense, or at private expense. Table XIV gives the per cent distribution, by source of support, of these feeble-minded, for main geographic divisions.

TABLE XIV.—*Per cent distribution, by source of support, of feeble-minded in institutions, for main geographic divisions: 1904.*

SOURCE OF SUPPORT.	PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF FEEBLE-MINDED IN INSTITUTIONS: 1904.					
	Conti- nental United States	North Atlan- tic di- vision.	South Atlan- tic di- vision.	North Cen- tral di- vision.	South Cen- tral di- vision.	West- ern divi- sion.
All sources.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Public expense.....	81.5	89.7	86.7	75.9	75.0	73.8
Public and private expense.....	10.8	4.1	0.5	16.2	0.8	15.5
Private expense.....	7.7	6.2	12.8	7.9	24.2	10.7

As nearly all the feeble-minded enumerated are cared for in institutions maintained at state expense, it is perhaps natural that the gratuitous support afforded should be generally accepted. Most inmates, moreover, are drawn from the families of the poor. In all, 81.5 per cent of the feeble-minded in institutions were cared for wholly at public expense. This class of the feeble-minded constituted but 75.9 per cent of the total in the North Central states, and only 73.8 per cent in the Western division, while it formed 89.7 per cent of the total in the North Atlantic states. That this difference is probably due to a more systematic effort in the North Central and Western states to make the relatives of the feeble-minded contribute to their support, is indicated by the fact that 16.2 per cent in the North Central and 15.5 per cent in the Western states were supported in part at private expense, while only 4.1 per cent in the North Atlantic division were so supported.